



Media Fairness Initiative

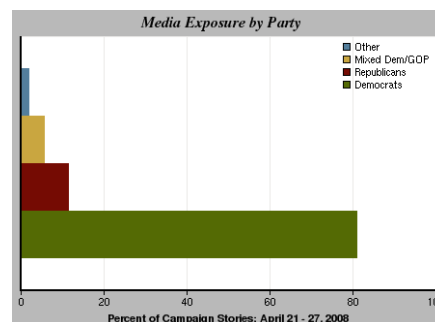
A Look at Bias in the News



Campaign Coverage ‘Utterly Dominated’ by Democrats 4/30/08

Democrats received over seven times more election news coverage than Republicans during the week of April 21-27, according to the latest survey by the Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ). In its weekly analysis, PEJ noted that the news was “utterly dominated by the Democrats.”

Sen. Barack Obama was a significant figure in 70 percent of the campaign stories to lead all candidates, followed by Sen. Hillary Clinton at 64 percent. **Sen. John McCain was a distant third at just 17 percent**, despite his tour of economically hard-hit areas of the nation last week.



LA Times Unfairly Criticizes McCain’s Pension

The Los Angeles Times last week raised questions about a disability pension that Sen. John McCain receives as a result of injuries he sustained while he was a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

The April 22 article began with implicit criticisms of McCain’s age and health: **“McCain would be the oldest man to enter the White House if he is elected president, and questions have been raised about his health ... The fact that he is legally designated with a disability pension may raise further questions.”**

The article then took issue with McCain’s willingness to accept the pension. A tax attorney quoted in the article asked, “If McCain can hike across the Grand Canyon, then why should he be getting disability payments from the government that are tax-exempt?” Only at the end of the article was there a quote from a fellow Vietnam POW, who argued that **“while McCain’s injuries were serious enough to qualify him for disability, they would not affect his performance as president.”**

NY Times, Wash Post Circulation Down; WSJ Up

Circulation of major newspapers like *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* fell significantly in the last year, while *The Wall Street Journal’s* circulation increased, according to new information released by the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

The New York Times lost more than 150,000 copies of its Sunday edition – a drop of 9.2 percent from a year ago – while daily circulation declined 3.8 percent. *The Washington Post’s* Sunday circulation decreased by 4.3 percent in the last year, and daily circulation dropped 3.5 percent.

Other major newspapers endured falling daily circulations: *The San Francisco Chronicle* dropped 4.2 percent; *The Boston Globe* fell 8.3 percent; *The Miami Herald* lost more than 11 percent; *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* declined 8.5 percent; and *The Chicago Tribune* dropped 4.4 percent.

Meanwhile, circulation at *The Wall Street Journal* grew slightly to 2,069,463 daily copies.

